

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 097508  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK:PAW

APPROVED BY EA:RBOAKLEY

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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-----301520Z 082005 /42

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

S E C R E T STATE 097508

STADIS//////////

EXDIS, FOR CHARGE STULL

E.O. 11652:XDGS-3

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT:POSSIBLE COUP PLOTTING

1. DURING CALL ON COUNTRY DIRECTOR FLECK APRIL 25, STEVE PSINAKIS SAID HE WISHED TO RAISE MATTER OF UTMOST SENSITIVITY. PSINAKIS INDICATED HE HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO APPROACH STATE DEPARTMENT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER REPRESENTATIVE FROM DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF A GROUP AFFILIATED WITH PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES WHICH IS PLANNING BLOODLESS COUP TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY IN PHILIPPINES.

2. PSINAKIS REFUSED TO DIVULGE NAMES OR IDENTITIES BUT SAID HE BELIEVED GROUP LEADERS WERE CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT COUP PLANS SUCCESSFULLY WITHOUT USG ASSISTANCE. IN

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HIS OPINION, LEADERS WERE HIGHLY COMPETENT MEN PRESENTLY HOLDING INFLUENTIAL POSITIONS WITHIN AFP AND GOP. WHILE PSINAKIS NOT PERSONALLY SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR CURRENT POLITICAL ORIENTATION, HE BELIEVES THEY SINCERELY INTEND TO RESTORE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WITHIN REASONABLE TIME AFTER OUSTING PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY FLECK, PSINAKIS SAID PURPOSE OF PROPOSED MEETING, AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, WAS NOT TO SEEK USG SUPPORT FOR COUP BUT RATHER TO LEARN WHETHER USG SEES ITS INTERESTS TIED TO CONTINUATION OF MARCOS IN POWER. HE SAID MEETING NEED NOT TAKE PLACE IN PHILIPPINES. HE BELIEVED GROUP HAS THREE-FOLD MOTIVATION: (A) DISILLUSIONMENT WITH MARCOS REGIME; (B) DISSATISFACTION OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AFFECTING ARMED FORCES; AND (C) ATTEMPT TO BUY INSURANCE BY BEING AMONG SURVIVORS WHEN MARCOS REGIME COLLAPSES.

4. FLECK REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT GIVE OFFICIAL RESPONSE IMMEDIATELY BUT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE BELIEVED SENIOR USG OFFICIALS WOULD BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN ADDRESSING QUESTION. WITH RESPECT TO PHILIPPINES, HE RECALLED USG HAD FREQUENTLY BEEN FALSELY ACCUSED OF COMPLICITY AND AS HAVING HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE AND GIVEN CONSENT TO MARTIAL LAW DECLARATION. FLECK PROMISED OFFICIAL REPLY WITHIN FEW DAYS.

5. ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS, FLECK INFORMED PSINAKIS IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION ON APRIL 28 THAT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE USG IS OPPOSED TO OVERTHROW OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS, THAT THIS APPLIES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND THAT WE WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY PLOTTING AGAINST THAT GOVERNMENT.

6. MEMCONS BEING POUCHED.

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CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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